(f) the persons who are guilty for escalation in cost of the projects as a result of not providing administrative clearance in time by the Palamu district administration; and

(g) the action proposed to be taken by the Government against the guilty persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) the model code of conduct for elections came into effect from 19.3.96.

(e) The guidelines on the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme do not stipulate any time limit for issuing technical and administrative clearance by the District administration. It should, however, be the endeavour of every District Collector to issue such sanctions at the earliest.

(b) to (g) As already informed in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2365 put down for answer on 31.8.96, of the works recommended by Shri Ram Dev Ram, MP of the 10th Lok Sabha from Palamu Parliamentary constituency, 77 works were recommended prior to 28.1.96. Rest of the works were recommended on 28.1.96 or thereafter. Of the 77 schemes recommended, prior to 28.1.96. Rest of the works were recommended on 28.1.96 or thereafter. Of the 77 schemes recommended, prior to 28.1.96, 76 schemes were sanctioned and executed by the District Collector of Palamu District. One scheme could not be sanctioned as it was not found to be permissible under the guidelines. The schemes recommended on or 28.1.96 were also initially processed and sent for preparation of plans and estimates. However, further action could not be taken due to the imposition of the model code of conduct. In view of these circumstances, there does not, prima facie, appear to be any cause for taking action.

[English]

Rent

5327. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have data on the rent of residential accommodation in the towns and cities with population of 500,000 and more;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any plans to bring down rents to affordable levels;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The main cause for the sharp increase in rent is the gap in demand and supply of housing. Housing being a State Subject, State Governments are responsible for increasing the housing stock by implementation of various housing schemes as per their plan priorities and available resources. However, the Central Government have initiated several steps to create an enabling environment for increasing supply land and rental housing which is expected to help in bringing down the rents of residential accommodation, such as :

— Model Rent Control Legislation formulated and circulated to the States.

— Model Apartment Ownership Bill formulated and circulated to the States.

— Amendments to Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Act under consideration

— Flow of housing finance has been increased through HUDCO, NHB, Commercial banks, etc. for increasing housing delivery.

Promotion of Section Officer to Under Secretary

5328. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether eight years service as Section Officer is the statutory requirement for promotion to the post of Under Secretary;

(b) if so, the number of Section Officers who are eligible for the next promotion as Under Secretary;

(c) the number of vacancies lying vacant; and

(d) the date by which these will be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. According to the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) Rules, 1962, 8 years is the minimum eligibility service for a section officer of CSS for being considered for promotion to the Under Secretary Grade.

(b) The Section Officers' Grade is decentralised amongst 33 cadres, each cadre consisting of one or more

Ministries/Departments. The requisite information regarding the number of Section Officers eligible for promotion on the basis of eligibility conditions is not centrally maintained.

(c) According to the information received from various Ministries/Departments, the number of vacancies in the grade of Under Secretary is 53.

(d) No Select List for regular promotion to the grade of Under Secretary could be prepared after the 1986 Select List, due to protracted litigation regarding *inter se* seniority of directly recruited and promotee Section Officers. Consequently, ad-hoc promotions only were being made, which have been temporarily help up as an application has been filed in the Supreme Court for getting the position of law regarding certain claims of SC/ST officials clarified, and the disposal of that application is awaited.

[Translation]

LPG Coupons

5329. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the members of Advisory Committee attached Ministry are given more LPG coupons than other Members of Parliament; and

(b) if so, the rationale behind such discrimination among Member of Parliament ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Members of Parliament who are members of the Consultatives Committee attached to the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas had pleaded with the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas that being members of this committee, a large number of members of the public approached them for release of LPG connections on priority. Since such members are associated with the affairs of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and more people may be approaching them, it was considered appropriate to give a quota of 30 LPG priority vouchers per quarter to such MPs against the entitlement of 25 priority vouchers to other Member of Parliament.

[English]

Cancellation of Lease

5330. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 8324 on May 12, 1993 and subsequently the statement laid on the Table of the House and state :

(a) the action taken by the DDA to cancel the lease of those 42 allottees who had constructed an additional third storey unauthorisedly in 188 LIG double storey flats, in Phase-I, Ashok Vihar Delhi;

(b) whether there is an increase in the number of such unauthorised construction and if so, the action taken/ propose to be taken by DDA in consultation with MCD for demolishing the unauthorised structures; and

(c) the action taken against the officials who are responsible for unauthorised constructions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY AT PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The DDA has reported that action for cancellation of the lease of the allottees in cases of unauthorised construction is taken only as an additional measure when it is otherwise not possible to remove such unauthorised construction. As the area in question stands denotified and the action to remove the unauthorised construction is to be taken by MCD, the lease deeds of the concerned flats have not been cancelled.

(b) The MCD has reported that there is no increase in the number of unauthorised constructions in 188, LIG double storey flats, Ashok Vihar, Phase-I.

(c) Does not arise.

Encroachment on Government Land

5331. SHRIMATI SUBHAWATI DEVI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 7716 on 5th May, 1993 regarding "encroachment on Government land in Netaji Nagar" and state :

(a) whether the Delhi Administration had asked CPWD to take over the site from the Land Acquisition Collector without waiting for the removal of boundary wall etc;

(b) if so, the action taken by the CPWD to take over the land for the construction of Central Government staff quarters;

(c) the number of buildings that have come up on this Governemnt land and whether the Government of Delhi provided water and electricity to these illegal buildings on the Government land; and

(d) whether therer is any proposal to get this Government land in Anant Ram Dairy vacated from the encroachers; if so, by when and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. V. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.